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Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

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Fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

The General Assembly,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/10 of 3 April 1998 on the fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,[1]

Recalling also that the General Assembly, in adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948,[2] recognized the inherent dignity and the equal and

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[2] Resolution 217 A (III).

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inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Recalling further the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[3] in particular chapter VII thereof, entitled "1998 – Human Rights Year", in which proposals to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary were made, and welcoming the efforts of the High Commissioner to facilitate cooperation between various commemorative initiatives,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,[4] as well as other relevant international instruments of human rights,

Recalling the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 96 (I) of 11 December 1946, in which it declared genocide to be a crime under international law, contrary to the spirit and aims of the United Nations,

Recalling also that the General Assembly, in adopting the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide on 9 December 1948, recognized the crime of genocide as an odious scourge which had inflicted great losses on humanity and was convinced that international cooperation was required to facilitate the speedy prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide,

Noting that, fifty years after inclusion of a proposal to that effect, concrete steps have been taken to create international penal tribunals with jurisdiction over persons charged with genocide,

Concerned that, despite the efforts of the international community, many thousands of innocent human beings continue to be victims of genocide,

Taking into consideration the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity of 26 November 1968,[5]

Considering that the fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide provides a new opportunity for the international community to draw the attention of all States to the significance of the Convention and to invite them to redouble their efforts on behalf of the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide,

1. *Reaffirms* the significance of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide as an effective international instrument for the punishment of the crime of genocide;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to all States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention;

3. *Invites* States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so;

4. *Calls upon* all States to increase and intensify their activities aimed at the full implementation of the provisions of the Convention;

5. *Invites* Governments and the international community to continue to review and assess the progress made in the implementation of the Convention since its adoption, and

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 36* (A/52/36).

[4] Resolution 260 A (III).

[5] Resolution 2391 (XXIII), annex.

to identify obstacles and the way in which they can be overcome, both through measures on the national level and through enhanced international cooperation;

6. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations Secretariat, relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system within their respective mandates, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations to widely disseminate the Convention together with other international instruments in the field of human rights, with a view to ensuring its universality and full and comprehensive implementation.